

Members Newsletter

June 2023
Issue 6

Welcome

BY JEFF COOPE, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Welcome to the June 2023 edition of the British Motor Museum Members Newsletter.

With the warm weather finally here, our summer season is well underway at the Museum. Events that have taken place so far have been hugely popular judging by the number of visitors attending them, and indeed one or two, such as our custom car show 'Tucked' and Ultimate BMW, reached our site capacity of 5,000 per day!

As many of you know, the Museum is now home to Vauxhall's heritage collection, and it was this that inspired the first-ever Vauxhall show at British Motor Museum. Called Vaux ALL, it attracted over 500 exhibitors and thousands of new enthusiasts to the Museum and, along with everyone having a great time, it really helps to broaden the appeal of the Museum as the home to all of Britain's automotive history and culture.

As you will see inside the Newsletter, there is still so much more to come this summer, including another first, the Aston Martin Festival on 12 August, and of course our own

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Welcome continued

30th birthday party, which will be marked by a very special week-long celebration in August. Details are inside this edition of your newsletter, and of course, as members, you are most welcome to come and enjoy it all.

Speaking of the future, planning is now well underway to deliver a new, larger Café and Gift Shop in the reception area of the Museum, which will be open to everyone – Museum visitors and the general public alike. The project will also include a new Learning and Engagement Centre, a reading room and restrooms, plus an outdoor eating area overlooking the display arenas – so you won't miss a moment of the action, while you enjoy breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea!

Also, in this edition of the Newsletter:

- Meet Cat, our new Fundraising Development Manager, who is already having a very positive impact on the way we plan and implement our fundraising activities.
- Read a review of this year's successful 'Museum on the Move' Members' evening and get an insight into our exciting new exhibitions and how they are developed and curated.
- Finally, read the fascinating story behind one of the collection's smallest but

most iconic concept cars, the 'Zanda' - I hope you enjoy it.

After the difficult times we have all been through together, it is wonderful to see so many people back at the Museum enjoying themselves, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the continued support you provide through your membership. With your help, we are building a bright future for the Museum, something I am sure future generations will treasure.

We look forward to welcoming you to your Museum this summer.

Best wishes

Jeff

Dates for your diary

25 June - Ford Nationals

1 July - Wythall Busfest@Gaydon

9 July - BMC & Leyland Show

11 July - Gaydon Gathering

17 July - Mini Motorists Mondays

21 July - 4 September - Summer Holiday Activities

23 July - Old Ford Rally/Rootes Heritage Day

4-6 August - International Saab Clubs Meet



8 August - Gaydon Gathering

12 August - Aston Martin Heritage Festival

14-20 August - 30th Anniversary Celebration Week

It's our 30th Anniversary at Gaydon, and we've got a real treat for you! Car rides, science shows, exclusive tours, a quiz night, a breakfast meet and more! We're even holding a raffle for the chance to ride in some of our most iconic cars. Don't miss it!

[Tap here to find out more.](#)

21 August - Mini Motorists Mondays

28 August - Auto Alex Shedfest

2 September - Jaguars @ Gaydon

9-10 September - Retro Truck Show



Dates for your diary

- 12 September - Gaydon Gathering
- 16 September - Italian Wheels
- 17 September - MX-5 Owners Club National Rally
- 18 September - Mini Motorists Mondays
- 24 September - DR1VR Show
- 10 October - Gaydon Gathering
- 16 October - Mini Motorists Mondays
- 22 October - Large Model Aircraft Show
- 28-29 October - Great British Model Railway Show
- 4 November - Jaguar Breakfast Meet
- 20 November - Mini Motorists Mondays
- 2 December - Jaguar Breakfast Meet
- 11 December - Mini Motorists Mondays



**Tap here for a full list of
WHAT'S ON and to book tickets.**

Keep an eye on our social media pages, as more events may be added.



Museum on the Move 2023

BY SAM ARROWSMITH, MARKETING ASSISTANT

On a miraculously warm April evening, following a day of worryingly heavy downpours, around 40 of our Members joined us at the Museum to enjoy a handpicked selection of our cars as they took to the roads around the site. Our guests queued up for rides in the cars, given by our knowledgeable Museum and Workshop team, to get a taste of what it's like to be driven in these wonderful classic vehicles.

10 of our 350 historic British cars were on hand, from all eras and a variety of types - everything from a 1902 Albion Dog Cart to the 1993 Vauxhall Lotus Carlton. In the end, though, Members got an even greater choice as we'd added a few backup options in case the weather had stayed wet.

These included the Riley RMA from 1952, whose elegant design proved popular with the Members.

Amongst the line-up were several important motoring milestones, including a prototype

Triumph Lynx from 1978 and the 1965 Monte Carlo Rally-winning Morris Mini-Cooper S. There were truly unique designs, such as the 1955 Rover Gas Turbine Base Unit and some newer additions to the collection, for example, a recently donated 1971 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow.

The most popular ride of the evening definitely went to the Mini Cooper, closely followed by the Lotus Carlton. All

the cars travelling around the roads of the Museum made for quite a sight and quite a sound. The Mini, in particular, had an incredible noise, although it was outmatched by the screaming gas turbine engine of the Base Unit, likened by some to the sound of a plane taking off.





Museum on the Move 2023 continued

During the evening, there was plenty of opportunity to chat with the talented Workshop, Curatorial and Archive staff who look after our amazing collections, along with the Museum's Managing Director, Jeff Coope.

As the sun began to set and it was time to set off home, it seemed everyone had enjoyed their evening immensely and had a chance to ride in each of the cars they wanted. We're already looking forward to next year!

Additional pictures from the evening can be found in the Membership section of the website – <https://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/about-us/membership/museum-on-the-move>





The Legend of Zanda

BY STEPHEN LAING, HEAD OF COLLECTIONS

I've walked past the diminutive Zanda concept model thousands of times during my time at the Museum. It was one of stylist Harris Mann's first wedge shaped designs and it signified, to borrow from another British Leyland advert, the shape of things to come. Zanda was revolutionary at its 1969 reveal, intended to show that the newly formed Austin-Morris design studio was up there with the world's best.

Green strip still visible on the original tyres.

Earlier in the year I got a call from friend of the Museum, Adam Gompertz, to ask if we could provide something suitable for his REVS Limiter display at a Bicester Scramble, on the theme of 'The Thin End of the Wedge.' What better than the original BL slope shaper?!

Zanda rarely leaves the Museum so it was great to see it in a different context. It may be small but up against a TR7, Lotus Esprit, Aston Martin Lagonda and even Lamborghini Countach, the pioneering wedge held its own judging by the interest in it – truly unique.

New settings always reinvigorate interest and, naturally, curiosity got the better of me. A dabble in our amazing Archive liberated some early colour photos of Zanda outside the then-new design office at Longbridge. The photos show that its first colour scheme is not what it carries today but, in 1969, it was turned out in a zesty green paint, with wedge-shaped Zanda graphics to match and the tyres finished off with a lime-coloured stripe. According to Harris Mann, the livery was inspired by Bertone's striking Alfa Romeo Carabo concept, which had made its debut just a year before Zanda.



So what of the less eye-catching gold scheme that now adorns the concept? It seems that BL continued to roll out Zanda as 'the future' for another ten years, repainting it in the

The Legend of Zanda continued

process and eventually renaming it Midiam in case anyone noticed that it was a child of the late '60s!

That's not the end of the story. Once back in the Museum, Zanda was put on the ramp in our Workshop to see if we could reveal any more of its past. Lo and behold, where the odd piece of gold had flaked off, the zing of green showed through. We even discovered that the tyres had simply been turned around to hide the green stripe.

"Every day is a school day" as they say and creates another conundrum for the team. Should Zanda be returned to its original colour scheme as the designer intended? The thin end of the wedge, indeed!



Up on the ramp, glimpses of green are revealed!





All Change - Exhibition News

BY CAT BOXALL, CURATOR

For those of you who have been to visit the Museum in the last year, we hope you took some time to look around and enjoy our feature exhibition, 'Small car. Big history' which celebrated 100 years of the Austin Seven. It's all change and the Austin Sevens have now returned to their familiar place in the Rotunda, in the main part of the Museum. What you won't have seen on your visits in the last few months is that the Curatorial Team have been busily preparing for the next exhibition.

Beginning in the last quarter of 2022, we have been researching and writing content for it and getting a design team on board to help us. Exhibitions aren't all about research; the spaces themselves are unique. Each exhibition has a different style and feeling, carefully curated between the Museum teams and the designers. This gives an amazing visitor experience when you come to visit. Behind the scenes, there is an awful lot of preparation and physical work that goes into taking down and reinstalling an exhibition; and we love to get stuck in!

To make things even more challenging, we



are trying something new by slotting in a short run exhibition whilst we're building up to our next big feature. We have been working alongside Derbyshire-based Historic Car Art to display some of the best automotive art. The Gallery features over 30 pieces of evocative artwork from seven of



All Change - Exhibition News continued

BY CAT BOXALL, CURATOR



the UK's leading motoring artists, who work with a variety of media including acrylics, oil, watercolour, pen and pastels and sculpture. Catch it soon, though, as will be open for just a limited period until Friday 30 June.

And that's not all; after a brief changeover period in July, please come back to join us for our next feature exhibition. 'Transitions: The Impact of Innovation' will open from Saturday 15 July and run until Summer 2024. We look at what the future holds for the automobile, assessing developments in science and technology as well as digging deeper into how things work and what it means for everyone who uses or comes into contact with a car. Plenty to think about!



30th Anniversary Celebration

BY SAM ARROWSMITH, MARKETING ASSISTANT

On 1 May 1993, the British Motor Museum, known at the time as the Heritage Motor Centre, opened its doors on this site for the very first time. Purpose-built to hold the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust's collections, the Museum was created with one goal, to preserve the motoring history of Britain, now and into the future. A charity from the start, public support has helped the Museum collect, conserve and share the collections, to inspire this generation and the next.

Since that first day, 30 years have passed, the collections have grown dramatically, and millions have passed through our doors to discover the history of the motor industry in Britain, through over 400 historic British vehicles and our amazing archives. We're proud of how far we've come, and excited about our plans for the future.

To celebrate the 30 years of the British Motor Museum, we're hosting a 30th Anniversary Celebration week from 14-20 August, packed with activities and events, featuring old favourites returning for the great occasion, as well as once-

in-a-lifetime experiences. Whatever your tastes, whatever your interests, there'll be something here for you.

First of all, we'll be running a **Raffle** to raise funds for the Museum's future plans. You could win a VIP package themed around one of five legendary vehicles from our collection (such as Huey, the first pre-production Land Rover and the Ford Anglia from the Harry Potter films), including the rare chance to ride in one!

Tickets will be onsale until 31 July. We'll also be running **Cars on the Move**, putting a selection of our iconic cars through their paces around the Museum grounds from Monday to Friday during the Celebration Week.

On 14, 16 and 18 August, we'll also be offering **Car Rides** - giving visitors the opportunity to take a ride in a range of cars from our collection, including

the 1952 Riley RMA and the 1960 Standard Ensign. Our talented Volunteer team will be taking the wheel for this, while you just relax and enjoy a cruise around the Museum site.

Inside, there's even more to discover! For one week only, the Welcome Gallery in the Main Museum Building will be playing host to **"Our Story - 30 Years of the British Motor Museum"**, a special display featuring photos and materials from across our 30-year history.



30th Anniversary Celebration continued

Meanwhile, we'll be having **Bonnets Up, Doors Open** hours every day throughout the week, from 10:30 til 11:30 and from 14:30 til 15:30. We will be opening the bonnets, boots and even doors of a selection of our cars, and a member of our knowledgeable team will be on hand to discuss the cars and point out some of their finer features.

Our Volunteers have been hard at work preparing a selection of **History Talks**, which they will be delivering from Monday to Friday. Check out the main 30th Anniversary Celebration webpage for the full timetable. We also have a special **MG Centenary Tour**, running on 17 and 19 August, to commemorate 100 years of MG, another significant motoring milestone for 2023.

There are activities for families, too! Our **summer activities and family tours** have a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) theme and our ever-popular **Science Shows** return for the anniversary event, running from 17-19 August. Professor Pickle aims to reach the final frontier...and Dr Pumpkin aims to make sure he doesn't hurt himself trying! Children will learn and laugh along with our brainy scientists as their experiments explore friction, electricity and more!

We are also proud to announce that 16 August will be a designated **Access Day**. To provide a pleasant and enjoyable visitor experience for the widest possible audience, we will be holding 'quiet hours' between 9am and 10am

MEET THE TEAM



Hi, I'm Cat and I am the Fundraising Development Manager here at the Trust. Since starting in January, it has been a busy first few months in not only a new job for me, but also a new role for the organisation. Having worked in the charity sector for the last 12 years and as a full-time fundraiser for over 8 years, I am excited to launch Fundraising here at the Museum.

My passions and hobbies outside of work are horses and F1 - a mix of horsepower! I volunteer in my "spare" time for another charity and love travelling.

My job in three words: Exciting, Challenging and Affecting

Favourite animal: Probably a horse as I have a degree in them! Although it is tricky to choose as I used to be a zookeeper...

Favourite car in the collection: It changes but at the moment probably the Jensen FF Series II.

(continued)



30th Anniversary Celebration continued

and 5pm and 6pm. We will be lowering the lighting level and turning off our audio-visuals, to make a more relaxed experience in the Museum. Our Touch and Access Tours and Object Handling Workshops will also be held, allowing visitors to get familiar with the cars and artefacts held in our collection.

Meanwhile, out in the Northern Arena, **Young Driver** will be offering accessible 15-minute taster sessions, that visitors from 10 to 110 can enjoy! Finally, we'll be running an air-drying clay activity in the Learning Space, so visitors can get hands-on making something they'll be proud to take home.

MEET THE TEAM continued

It is a really exciting time at the organisation as we explore the potential for fundraising and plan for the future. I have really enjoyed meeting some of you already and look forward to meeting more of you going forward. There will be more updates on fundraising in future membership newsletters but do feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or just want to catch up for a coffee next time you are visiting us!



For those who want to really test their knowledge, we'll be holding a **30th Anniversary Quiz Night** on the evening of Friday 18 August, with rounds covering general knowledge, music, movies and the last 30 years of the Museum's history, plus a cash prize for the winning team! We'll be laying on a BBQ dinner for all our teams, so don't miss out!

Finally, in the tradition of our Gaydon Gatherings, we'll be hosting a **30th Anniversary Breakfast Meet** on Sunday 20 August. All vehicles are welcome, cars, buses, lorries, motorbikes, scooters, tractors, whatever! Delicious breakfast will be available to buy inside the Junction 12 Café, or you can grab a light bite to eat outside. You won't find a better chance to mix with like-minded people and share memories of 30 years of the British Motor Museum.

There's a wide range of activities available for the Anniversary Week, and there's really something for everyone. [Tap here](#) for further details, as well as new announcements. We're looking forward to celebrating with you!



Making the most of your Membership

30th Anniversary Celebration - 14-20 August

If you're as excited for the 30th Anniversary Celebration as we are, you're not going to want to miss a moment! With your Membership, you get unlimited free entry to the Museum all year round, so you can come all week, free of charge.

While you're here, don't forget to take advantage of your Member discounts! Members get a 10% discount in both the Café and the Gift Shop, while Premium Members get a 20% discount! Make sure to take advantage, particularly if you're in for more than one activity.

After a busy morning of Anniversary fun, there's no better way to recharge your batteries than with a delicious meal in the Junction 12 Café. Then, at the end of the day, visit our Gift Shop to find the perfect motoring souvenir.



Don't let your Membership expire - renew yours today!

We're already halfway through 2023! How did that happen? We hope that you'll continue to support the British Motor Museum this year by renewing your membership.

If you pay by direct debit, your Membership will renew automatically. If not, you can renew by logging into the Museum Membership Portal.

[Tap here](#) to login.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact us.

t: 01926 895295

e: memberships@britishmotormuseum.co.uk

www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/membership